

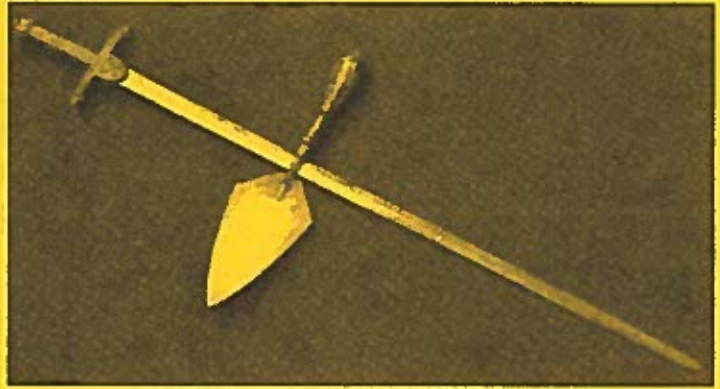
The Sword and Trowel

Church of Christ at Grissom
1461 Matador – Peru, IN

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www.cocgrissom.org

November 12, 2018



We intend to build and defend: *"As for the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side and so builded."* Nehemiah 4:18

Caravan

This Sunday Brother John Merritt taught the adult Sunday School lesson from **Joshua chapter 9**. In that chapter the Gibeonites deceived Joshua into making a covenant with them. God had specifically told the Israelites not to make any covenant with the inhabitants of Canaan, **Exodus 23:32, Deuteronomy 7:1-3**. However, they deceived Joshua into believing that they had traveled from a far country. God had allowed Israel to make covenants with people from cities very far away, **Deuteronomy 20:10-15**. Therefore, Joshua made a covenant with them. Of course, he did not inquire of the Lord first, **Joshua 9:14**.

It appears that Joshua was trying to follow God's law here, but he was not careful enough in how he went about things. He had asked the right questions about who they were and from where they were. However, they never really answered that question, at least not honestly and completely. It only took three days to realize that he had been duped. The people complained against the rulers of Israel when they found out what had happened. They did the right thing in sticking to their covenant and explaining their error to the people. They made the Gibeonites cutters of wood and carriers of water.

While we were discussing this in class, Brother George Faull commented that perhaps caravans aren't always what they seem to be. Everybody chuckled at this because of the current political debate in this nation about caravans coming to our border from the south.

However, there is more to this simple observation than just a moment of humor. This passage certainly ought to be a warning to us about people who show up in our nation wanting to make a covenant with us. It is true that things are not always as they seem. It is also true that before you make a covenant with anyone you need to ask some questions. Those questions need to be answered carefully, truthfully and fully. To fail to do this will cause the people to complain against their rulers and rightly so.

We need to know exactly who these people are and from where they are coming. Further, we need to know exactly what their intentions are in coming here. Failure to do this is failure to do the most basic thing any government is supposed to do. Governments are ordained of God to do good to those they oversee. They are also ordained by God to execute wrath on those who do evil, **Romans 13:1-7**. That is why we pay taxes, so that the government can perform these basic functions.

To do these tasks effectively they must be careful and cautious in making any covenant with any people. When people come to our nation they must be fully and carefully vetted. We must not be in a hurry about these things either or we will make mistakes. Any government that does not do this is not doing its most basic job of protecting those who do good and punishing those who do evil.

In His Service,

Terry Carter, Evangelist

NOTE!!

New Secret Sisters Sheets for November thru January are on the ladies' board. Please return them to Traci McBride or to the office.

COMING EVENTS

Fall Dinner immediately following the morning service. Meat and drinks will be furnished. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

PRAYER CONCERNS

for evangelist for Grissom church
Vicki (friend of Lisa July) – signing gospel
Karen VanNote (Brenda's mom) – doing better/ pray for Christian fellowship)
Mary Jane Lockhart (Melvin See's cousin - Erle's death)
Heather Bowman (Frieda's daughter)
Sherry Barker (Brenda's sister) – spiritual
Christians around the world being persecuted
Kendall Faull (life situations)
Bonnie Barnhill (deployed to Africa for 7 months)
congratulations to Matt & Sarah Crosby in birth of baby girl, Leah Jean
Mark Whitsett (paralyzed from accident & for salvation)
our evangelist, elders & deacons (& their families)
Church of Christ at Monticello & Buffalo Church of Christ
Summit School of Preaching
Jonathan Newlon (back issues)
Debra Isebrand (recovery from foot surgery)
Richard Kees (Melanoma)
absentees to return

Mary Copp (strength)
Emma Grace Peters (PTL: x-rays good)
Norma Heckathorn (still having pain in back)
Ariel Purvis (complications from surgery)
Diane White
Mike White family (he oversea, wife pregnant)
our missionaries
Jeff VanCuren (continued recovery)
John Merritt
Steve Emerick – lung problems
ladies' Bible Study
Sue Sebastian (Carla's sister) – lesion on pancreas
George Faull (strength/ health)
Carla Worley (thyroid issues)
Ray Maggard (he fell) & Nancy Maggard
Don Pruitt (paralyzed on one side/ unknown cause)
James (Carter's nephew) - spiritual
Roger VanNote (Brenda's step-dad) -for his health
Carol See (that surgery will help with pain)
Lisa July (opportunitie)

*Proverb for the Week:
Meditate on this Proverb:
10:17 He is in the way of
life that keepeth instruction
but he that refuseth reproof
erreth.*

SERVICES

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Sunday School | 9:00 |
| A.M.Church | 10:00 |
| Men's Prayer Meeting | 5:30 |
| Women's Prayer Meeting | 5:30 |
| P.M.Evangelistic Hour | 6:00 |
| Wednesday P.M. | 7:00 |
| Youth for Truth (Wedn.) | 7:00 |

ATTENDANCE

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Sunday School | 47 |
| A.M.Church | 92 |
| P.M.Evangelistic Service | 47 |
| Tithes & Offerings | \$4,043 |
| Wednesday Evening | 67 |

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

You cannot say the Lord's Prayer and make one selfish plea,
You cannot say the Lord's Prayer and even once say "me",
For it's our, our, our and it's us, us, us,
And the fourth time it's our, and the fourth time it's us.

You cannot say the Lord's Prayer and even once say "I",
You cannot say the Lord's Prayer and even once say "my",
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and pray not for another,
For when you ask for daily bread, you must include they brother.

For it's us, us, us, and it's our, our, our,
As free from selfish motive as the fragrance of a flower.
For, others are included in each and every plea,
For from beginning to the end it does not once say "me:."

—author unknown